1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 9 10 11 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE No. 2:14-cv-01513-MCE-DAD OF PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT 12 WORKS, and CENTRAL VALLEY CLEAN WATER ASSOCIATION, 13 **ORDER** Plaintiffs, 14 15 UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL 16 PROTECTION AGENCY; JARED BLUMENFELD, REGIONAL 17 ADMINISTRATOR, UNITED STATES **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION** 18 AGENCY, REGION IX; and DOES 1 to 10, 19 Defendants. 20 21 22 Currently before the Court is Plaintiffs' Ex Parte Application for an Order Striking 23 New Arguments and Evidence Submitted for the First Time in EPA's Reply to Plaintiffs' 24 Opposition to Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment, or in the Alternative, Granting 25 Leave for Plaintiffs to File a Surreply (ECF No. 42). 26 An Ex Parte Application is not the appropriate mechanism for bringing a Motion to 27 Strike. Therefore, the Application for an Order Striking the New Arguments and 28 Evidence is DENIED. In the interest of fairness and because this request is unopposed 1

(ECF No. 43), Plaintiffs' Application for an Order Granting Leave for Plaintiffs to File a Surreply is nonetheless GRANTED.¹ No later than two days following the date this order is electronically filed, Plaintiffs are directed to file their Surreply. Any response to the Surreply by Defendant EPA must be filed by no later than three (3) days following the filing of the Surreply. The March 5, 2015 hearing on the Cross-Motions for Summary Judgment (ECF Nos. 25, 30) and Plaintiffs' Motion to Compel (ECF No. 36) is VACATED and CONTINUED to Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in Courtroom 7. IT IS SO ORDERED. Dated: February 23, 2015 MORRISON C. ENGLAND, JR. CHIEF JUDGE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

¹ The Court does not look favorably on ex parte applications that could have been avoided by stipulation. Counsel are all admonished that any future ex parte applications will be rejected unless the parties specifically explain: (1) the steps they took to meet and confer; and (2) why no stipulation could be reached.